

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-8, 10-12 and 25 are allowed and that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

The Office Action rejected claims 13-24 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. More particularly the Office Action provides:

The claim(s) contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The additional information, "free of any additional radial retention members" in claims 13 and 20 is viewed as new matter. Applicant's original disclosure refers to the slots (23) being occupied by one retention portion (21), a second retention portion (22) and the root portion (26) of a blade. However, the disclosure does not address the presence or substantially support the lack of a radial wedge, as defined by Gastebois.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the § 112 rejection. Upon review of the original filed application including the specification and drawings it is clearly set forth that the only mechanical structure located within the slot 23 between the lugs 18 is retention and locating portions of the platform(s) and the root portion of one of the blades. The specification further defines that the interaction between the retention portions, the root portions and the lugs functions to couple the blade and separable platforms to the disk/wheel 17 a. The language supporting this blade retention is throughout the document, however one specific example of the retention without any other member is provided on page 10, lines 6-8. The applicable language is quoted herein as follows: "[f]urther, the system prevents radial movement of the blade 16 and separable blade platform relative to the disk/wheel 17a." '223 Application, p. 10, l. 6-8.

The text and the drawings show retention systems of the present invention free of any wedges or other additional mechanical structure within the slot 23.

The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner review the figures 3-7 and text associated therewith relative to the question of the claim language free of any additional radial retention member. Clearly, there is not a dispute that the only items described and illustrated as being with the slot 23 are integral portions of the removable platforms and the blade root. The lack of any additional mechanical structure within the slots 23 is believed disclosed, enabled and provided by written description in the application as originally filed. Withdrawal of the §112 rejection of claims 13-24 is respectfully requested.

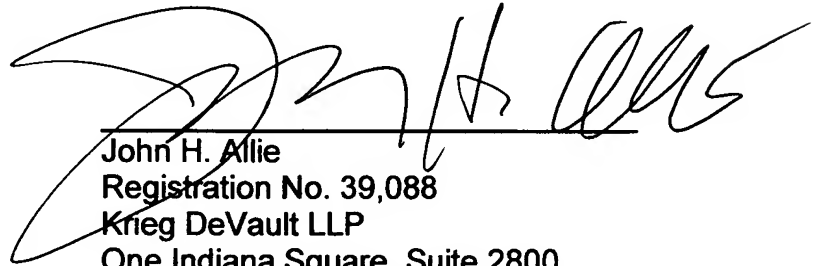
Claims 13-18 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 based upon a combination of U.S. Patent No. 4,802,824 to Gastebois in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,222,865 to Corsmeier and in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,801,222 to Violette and in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,494,709 to Pearcey. Each of the rejected independent claims 13 and 20 define an invention that does not utilize any additional radial retention member. The primary '824 reference discloses teaches and suggests that it is necessary that "a wedge 8 is inserted between the bottom face of the root of each blade and the corresponding socket 4 of the disk. In cooperation with the wedges 6a and 7a, the wedge 8 serves to lock the blade 3b in the radial direction." '824 Patent, Col. 3, L. 64.68. The Office Action provides that "[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Gastebois by removing the retention member and utilizing shaped blade roots and platforms as taught by Corsmeier in order to fully restrain the blades and prevent detrimental contact of the blade with the disk.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as the proposed combination destroys a primary feature of the primary reference; the utilization of the locking wedge. Therefore the proposed combination appears to be an after the fact effort utilizing the benefit of hindsight to splice the claimed invention together from a plurality of references. This destruction of the teaching teachings of the primary reference is a bright line indicator that the § 103 rejections should be withdrawn. Withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of the independent claims is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 14-19 and 21-24 are believed at least allowable as they depend from independent claims that are believed allowable.

All claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss any unresolved matters.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John H. Allie', is written over a horizontal line.

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